Exploitation of Women

3269. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the continued exploitation of women in different fields; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). The Government views with great concern the exploitation of women in India in various fields and is committed to check it. A number of steps have been taken in areas such as legislation, education, awareness generation, economic empowerment, legal literacy, counselling, legal aid, enforcement, support to voluntary agencies, publicity compaings etc, with a view to elevating the status of women which would reduce their exploitation and vulnerability to social, cultural and economic oppression. This is a continuing process. Government has also set up the National Commission for women to ensure due representation of women in all spheres, to check discrimination against women and for redressal of their grievances. The main task of the Commission is to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitution and legal safeguards provided for womem, to review the existing legislations concerning women and suggest emendments, wherever necessary. It will also look into the complaints and take *suo moto* notice and action of the cases involving deprivation of the rights of women.

[*Translation*]

Casualties Due to Consumption of Adultepated Food and Spurious Liquor

3270. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of casualties reported on acount of consumption of adulterated food and spurious liquor during 1991, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): Administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is generally done by the Food (health) Authorities of the States and UnionTerritories, who monitor the eases of food adulteration and consequent casualities, if any.

As per information made available to this Ministry, there has been no casualty due to consumption of adulterated food and spurious liquor during the year 1991 in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Sikkim.

[*English*]

Hoarding of Wheat

3271. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM BADAN:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether big farmers and traders all over the country are hoarding wheat for profiteering purpose; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken or